

Our Purpose

To examine Arizona Special Education State Board 401 rules, to propose rules that are clear, instructive, and aligned to the IDEA, and to provide guidance for implementation.

Core Team

Kristina Blackledge
Advocate & SEAP Member

Angela Denning
Arizona Department of Education
Deputy Associate Superintendent

Craig Carter
Director of Special Services
Washington Elem School District

Mollie Casson
ESS Director, Kingman Unified

Jan Cawthorne
Executive Director of Special Education,
Mesa Public Schools

Wendy Collison
Director of Special Education
Glendale Union High School District

Elizabeth Conran, Chief Academic
Officer, The Menta Group

Sarah Gamble
Director of Special Education
Primavera Online High School

Kristen Hartsuff
Director of Special Education
Glendale Elementary School District

Lorrane McPherson
Treasurer, AZCEC

Kimberly Peaslee,
Parent & Chairperson of CAC & SEAP
Member

Heidi Sinkovic
Director of ESS, The Leona Group

Chris Tiffany, Raising Special Kids &
SEAP Member

Our Group Norms

- We engage in active listening
- We seek to understand
- We strive for a collective impact
- We honor the communication plan
- We support working for the greater good
- Our communication is timely and accurate
- We use rubrics to evaluate our work
- We need to learn and "unlearn"
- Reflection is critical to our success

Consensus--A two tiered approach:

The Core Team will work toward unanimous consensus on every issue. If not an unanimous consensus the group will use a supermajority vote (11/13).

Rule Committee – Core Team January 15, 2015 Communiqué

Core Team Attendees: Wendy Collison, Beth Conran, Mollie Casson, Kim Peaslee, Craig Carter, Christopher Tiffany, Jan Cawthorne, Lorrane McPherson, Kristina Blackledge, Kris Hartsuff

ADE Support Staff: Angela Denning, William McQueary, Maura Mall

Meeting Location: ADE on Central

Please send your comments to AZBoardRuleCommitteeInBox@azed.gov

You've got to think about big things while you're doing small things, so that all the small things go in the right direction.

GOAL for Today: Continue work towards completing the proposed rule on the IEP.

What we did:

- We reflected on our work and progress over the past year identifying strengths, weakness, benefits, and cautions. We have completed the review of 6 of the 15 rule sections. Happy Anniversary!
- Reviewed the change to the ESS webpage. The links to the Rule Committee work and Communiqué has it's own link under Quick Links <http://www.azed.gov/special-education/category/rule-committee/>
- There was no feedback from the field via the ESS Inbox.
- We discussed the focus and purpose of the SLD subgroup to develop proposed guidance on evaluation and instruction. There are a great many people who have volunteered to be on this subcommittee including administrators, psychologists, teachers, parents. We need to assure there is also ELL representation on this committee which will meet February 13, 2015. Invitations will go out to those who volunteered.

What we learned.

- We learned more about the new Alternative Assessment for Arizona, the NCSC (National Center and State Collaborative) and the established eligibility criteria.
- We learned that the NCSC criteria were developed by a national committee.
- We learned that parent participation and input to the large group process is still very limited. The group discussed opportunities for parent forums to meet with parents within their advocacy groups and communities.

What we accomplished.

- We completed draft language to rule for the Assessment section of the IEP in line with IDEA language. The guidance document will address the change from "standard accommodations" to "allowable accommodations."
- We completed draft language for the process to request a review and revision of the IEP to be consistent with IDEA.
- We worked on the language needed in a guidance document to address defining peer reviewed and evidence based practices.
- We developed the agenda, format, and who would be receiving special invitations (in addition to the existing participant list) to the next large group meeting.

Next Steps:

- Next committee meeting on Friday 1/30/15.
- Begin work on the Least Restrictive Environment section of rule at the next meeting.
- The next meeting of the large group will be held at ADE on Central to get feedback on the IEP section of proposed rule on 2/27/15 9:30 am – noon. Suggested specifically soliciting special education teachers and full time special education department chairs or specialists to attend the next meeting.
- Committee members will bring lists of spring/summer meetings and professional gatherings at which the work of the committee can be presented and input can be gathered.
- Committee members are seeking specific input on the rule proposed about transition planning beginning prior to age 16.

Notes:

Rule Making Core Committee January 15, 2015 Communiqué

We Want to Hear from You!

- The committee is seeking input on the issue of the transition plan requirement of IDEA and the discussion of the current practice in Arizona districts. As part of our deliberation we are seeking your input asking if AZ should have a rule that requires transition services to begin prior to age 16. If so, at what age or grade level could the transition plan be required?
- Please send your comments to AZBoardRuleCommitteeInBox@azed.gov. We look forward to hearing from the community at large, Key Advisors and Extended Partners on our work to date and future agenda items. These documents along with key documents are posted on the Director's Corner at: <http://www.azed.gov/special-education/category/rule-committee/>